

# Steeple Talk

Volume 5, No. 12

February 5, 2012

## News from the STA Mass communities:

**7:15 Daily Mass:** Volunteer sacristans are needed to help with the tasks of opening and shutting the church and getting the altar ready for Mass. Contact Arlen Hagen, (650) 493-8139.

**7:30 Sunday Mass:** Sacristans Bill and Bea Peterson welcome volunteers in the sacristy. Don't be shy—identify yourself to them at Mass.

**8:45 Sunday Mass:** Deacon Carl Bunje (ret.) celebrates his 90th birthday on February 8th. On Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22, the Merton Center sponsors Mass at 6:00 p.m. with distribution of ashes.

**10:30 Sunday Mass:** Music minister Paul Prochaska is developing a bell choir. If you want to know more, ask Paul after Mass what might be happening and what he needs.

**12:00 Sunday Mass:** The St. Ann Choir will sing Mass in Latin—Gregorian chant with Renaissance motets—on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 8:00 p.m., with distribution of ashes.

**12:15 Daily Mass:** Stop in for Mass on your lunch hour and stay on for the Rosary.

## Giving thanks for Mary Baracchi:

A Prayer Service on January 31st at STA at 3:30 pm, celebrated by pastor Fr. Matt Stanley and Stanford Hospital chaplain Fr. John Hester, was held in thanksgiving for the bequests from Mary Baracchi to St. Thomas Aquinas Church and St. Elizabeth Seton School. Marijane Chestnut played our new piano and sang some of Mary's favorite songs. Fr. Hester gave us all a little background/history about Mary and presented Fr. Matt with a check for \$1,000,000. Fr. Matt invited Judy Foley, chairperson of the STA Church Interior Committee, to come forward and thanked her and the Interior committee for all their hard work; he is looking forward to the renovations to come. We also had a very nice wine and cheese reception at the Thomas

House after the service for about 30 who attended.

Mary Baracchi, a 1927 graduate of Palo Alto High School who worked in real estate and never married, was 7 weeks short of her 103rd birthday when she died in her Tasso Street home last July 2. Born in Italy, Mary's family moved to Palo Alto when she was 3. After high school, she held jobs on the copy desk of the *S. F. Chronicle* and as a translator with the U.S. Navy before settling into a real estate career in Palo Alto.

Fr. Hester, associate director of the Stanford Hospital Spiritual Care Service, said he became acquainted with Mary in 1989, when she called him to administer to her dying mother. Later, he and Mary



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

shared weekly dinners until she died. She was known for her Italian sauces, he said.

Mary bequeathed nearly \$2 million for scholarships and a building at St. Elizabeth Seton School and another \$1 million for the renovation and upkeep of St. Thomas Aquinas Church. Thank you, Mary, our STA "angel."

## STA Site Committee plans:

**Monthly Meeting:**  
2nd Thursday of the month (This is a change from 4th Wednesday.)

**Next regular Site meeting:**  
Thursday, February 9, 2012  
7:30 p.m.  
Thomas House Library

### Agenda (tentative):

- Work day results
- Cabinetry
- PSC Site rep replacement

**Monthly newsletter:**  
Sunday before 2nd Thursday

**Editor:** Kay Williams, 650-328-2781, kaywill@pacbell.net

## Thomas House update:

### Library needs books:

Thank you for book donations, which are flowing in to the library. Especially desired are books on Christianity, religions of all kinds, Church history, saints, writings by great Christian/Catholic thinkers, and books on theology, philosophy and sociology, as well as inspirational fiction and biographies. The intention is to have this library open to the public—like a Christian Science Reading Room—and staffed ultimately by volun-

teers. Contact Ted Baer to arrange for review and pickup of your books: (650) 321-6179, tabaer@sbcglobal.net.

### Work days have begun:

Two Saturdays in January saw different work parties on the STA site. On Jan. 21, the hospitality ministers surveyed the contents of the old garage in the back of the church—where stuff from the Thomas House had been moved during con-

struction. Kitchen shelves were re-organized to make the hospitality business easier for all who provide it. On January 28, a work party from the Interior Committee scurried around in the church, cleaning closets, rearranging items used regularly, sharing ideas of best practices for storage when renovations are complete. The gardening group is growing and may add some weekend work hours to its schedule. Thank you, one and all!

**NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. THOMAS  
AQUINAS CHURCH SITE COMMITTEE**

751 Waverley Street  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

**St. Thomas Aquinas Site Committee:**

Ted Baer	Helen Baumann	Philip Boudart
Anna Jaklitsch	Judy Foley	Lorraine Dabney
Bill Mahrt	Bob March	Mike McMahon
Bea Peterson	Patti Robison	Mario Veloro
Kay Williams	and occasional others	

**Mission Statement:** The Site Committee for St. Thomas Aquinas Church works to encourage community-building within our six individual Mass communities, among our Mass communities, and within the larger parish community. We do this by enhancing our liturgies, exercising responsible stewardship of our facilities, and working to improve communications at all levels of our parish community.

Site committee meetings are (usually) held the 2nd Thursday of the month in the Library of the Thomas House. All are welcome, but if you cannot attend, send questions or suggestions to Kay Williams, 328-2781, [kaywill@pacbell.net](mailto:kaywill@pacbell.net).

## Parish pathways:

### **Parish Volunteer fete Feb. 11:**

All parish volunteers are invited to the "The Wonderful World of Volunteers," Feb. 11th from 3-5 p.m. at Seton Auditorium. The Pastoral Center staff does the work at this party to honor the many volunteers who work in the parish. Volunteers of any "size" are welcome. RSVP to Sandra at 650-494-2496 if you plan on attending.

### **Choir Concert Feb. 12:**

On Sunday, February 12th at 3:30 p.m. at STA there will be a Community Choral Concert, featuring many parish music groups performing as a benefit for the relief effort continuing in the Philippines since Hurricane Washi hit in late December. Come to hear classical, Gospel and modern Christian music sung by a variety of community choirs. Donations are gratefully accepted—cash or checks to STA Parish will work! This benefit is organized by Mari Olsen (singer at the Sunday 10:30 Mass), who is from the area in the Philippines that was hard hit by the flooding.

**Recently died:** David J. Webb, dedicated member for over 30 years of the St. Ann choir (12:00 Mass). With his beautiful tenor voice, David also led the singing for a thrice-monthly Latin *Novus Ordo* Mass at Our Lady of Peace for several years and was a major contributor to the formation of a new *schola* at the Oratory of Our Mother of Perpetual Help after Bishop McGrath designated the Oratory as the Traditional Latin Mass center for the San Jose diocese. David studied at Westminster Conservatory of Music, Princeton, NJ, and after his conversion to Catholicism in the 1980s, he focused on studying and singing liturgical music for the rest of his life.

After David did not appear for Mass or choir rehearsals for over a week, friends went to his apartment to investigate and when they got no answer to their knocks, the manager went in and reported David was dead. David was born April 12, 1954, and the tentative date of his death is January 7, 2012.

Friends pitched in to arrange a burial for him at Calvary Cemetery, in San Jose. Both choirs he sang with joined to sing a Requiem Mass for him here at STA on Jan. 25. His death was not a total surprise because he had been looking poorly for many months.

## From the church steps:

**Lost picture:** Randy Jones has lost this 5"x 7" picture of his father that he put on the November memorial altar. Did you pick it up by mistake? Call Randy at (408) 739-2881.



to Christ, and say hello to them in church as we welcome these new members to our Catholic community. Thanks to their sponsors Pat Keicher and Donna Pellizzari.

—Jean Ramacciotti, Director of RCIA



Cleia Muggler, Donna Pellizzari, Diane St. Mane, Pat Keicher with Fr. Matt and Deacon Daniel.

### **RCIA Rites at STA:**

On Sunday, January 29, at the STA 10:30 a.m. Mass, two candidates celebrated the Rite of Welcoming (Adult RCIA). The Rite is for those already baptized who are seeking Full Communion with the Catholic Church.

Diana St. Mane will be received into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil in April. Cleia Muggler will complete her Initiation by celebrating her First Communion and her Confirmation the same evening. Please include Diana and Cleia in your prayers as they journey closer

### **STA Interior Committee:**

This group met on January 30 at STA with the architect Mike Kastrop and liturgical designer Dan White to go over the project and to have the two meet. The plans are ready but for the nod from the diocese so the contractor selection process can begin. Dan will be working on the overall look of the church and the

different materials that will be used. Of course carpet is the one every one wants to know about. We look forward to his input.

The STA Interior Committee meets the 3rd Wed. of the month at 7:30 pm. in the Thomas House. All are welcome. Contact Judy Foley : (650) 322-8650, [judybertchfoley@yahoo.com](mailto:judybertchfoley@yahoo.com).

### **Rev. Major Tim Meier, S.J., visited:**

Fr. Tim Meier stopped by the 7:15 Mass on Jan. 27 to say hello to old friends. Tim, formerly a presider here in the parish as well as a molecular neurobiologist at Stan-



Major Meier with Larry Sullivan and Mary Coady looking on.

ford, where he was simultaneously coordinator and director of the honors biology program, is currently an Armed Forces chaplain stationed at the CA National Guard's Camp Roberts, just north of Paso Robles. He could be posted to Afghanistan next! Pray for Tim.